

Ahimsa Before Arms: Open Letter & Dossier to India's Soldiers — Humble Plea for Dissemination

5 messages

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To:

- **Smt. Droupadi Murmu**, The Hon'ble President of India and Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi — 110 004
- **The Hon'ble Chief of Army Staff**, Integrated HQ of MoD (Army), South Block, New Delhi — 110 011
- **The Hon'ble Chief of Naval Staff**, Integrated HQ of MoD (Navy), South Block, New Delhi — 110 011
- **The Hon'ble Chief of Air Staff**, Integrated HQ of MoD (Air Force), Vayu Bhavan, New Delhi — 110 011
- **The Hon'ble Director General**, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi — 110 003
- **The Hon'ble Director General**, Border Security Force (BSF), Block No. 10, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi — 110 003
- **The Hon'ble Directors General**, ITBP, CISF, and SSB

Subject: Transmittal of the consolidated open letter and dossier — “Ahimsa Before Arms” (Curated by OBMA) — with a plea for widest possible dissemination to all ranks

Respected Supreme Commander, Honoured Chiefs, and Hon'ble Directors General,

We write as supposed citizens of the Indian Republic, on behalf of **Once in a Blue Moon Academia (OBMA)** — not as leisure-class politicians, not as military strategists, not as partisans of any electoral formation — but as people who cannot sleep while the world, and our own nation within it, moves steadily toward the condition that Bertrand Russell and Albert Einstein named in 1955 with a precision that has not been improved upon:

“Here, then, is the problem which we present to you, stark and dreadful and inescapable: Shall we put an end to the human race; or shall mankind renounce war?” — The **Russell–Einstein Manifesto**, London, 9 July 1955

They did not speak as members of any nation, continent, or creed. They spoke “as human beings, members of the species Man [sexism unintended], whose continued existence is in doubt.” They concluded: “Remember your humanity, and forget the rest.”

It is in that internationalist spirit — and in the spirit of ahimsa, the active, demanding non-violence that this subcontinent gave the world — that we transmit this document. It is addressed not to institutions as abstractions but to people with bodies: the person carrying the rifle, flying the aircraft, standing watch at the border, sailing in the Indian Ocean, walking a “disputed” track in Chhattisgarh, freezing on a glacier that kills by weather rather than by fire. The person who, before they were a soldier, was a son or daughter, a brother or sister, a citizen of a republic that made promises it has not kept.

In 1940s, at the height of the most devastating war the world had yet seen, Charles Chaplin — playing a humble barber mistaken for a dictator — stepped before a microphone and addressed the soldiers of the world. The passage this letter treats as moral foundation is taken from that [speech](#):

“Soldiers! Don’t give yourselves to brutes — men who despise you — enslave you — who regiment your lives — tell you what to do — what to think and what to feel! Who drill you — diet you — treat you like cattle, use you as cannon fodder. Don’t give yourselves to these unnatural men — machine men with machine minds and machine hearts! You are not machines! You are not cattle! You are men! You have the love of humanity in your hearts! You don’t hate! Only the unloved hate — the unloved and the unnatural! Soldiers! Don’t fight for slavery! Fight for liberty!”

We do not transmit these words to incite disobedience. We transmit them because the attached record demonstrates, across more than twenty documented dimensions, that the Indian soldier has been systematically treated as an instrument while being publicly celebrated as a hero.

His disability pension was slashed the morning after his sacrifice was used as a campaign backdrop. His savings — and those of airmen’s widows — invested through the Air Force Group Insurance Society (AFGIS) and allied service-welfare deposits, sat inside DHFL when the company collapsed; the resolution that followed favoured a politically connected acquirer while the depositors waited. His standard-issue rifle’s cartridge case bursts in the chamber at a rate documented by the Comptroller and Auditor General. He has been asked to freeze at Siachen at a cost measured in thousands of rupees per second, where the overwhelming majority of casualties come from the mountain itself. He has been sent to patrol a border whose precise location his government will not publicly reconcile with the maps of its closest

partners. His predecessor's memoir — written by a former Chief of Army Staff — has been kept in bureaucratic suspension because it asks questions the political leadership cannot answer. When he is killed, his death is placed as a backdrop on a campaign poster. When he is a CAPF jawan rather than an Army jawan, his widow receives a lump sum and civil-service pension rules. When he is an Agniveer, the contract itself is the abandonment, signed in advance.

Two nuclear-armed states — India and Pakistan — exchanged missiles, drones, and aircraft fire over four days in May 2025. The weapons are more sophisticated than any Russell or Einstein imagined in 1955. The question they posed is more urgent than it has ever been. The soldiers on both sides of that exchange are human beings.

Here's the *full communication (open letter and a comprehensive dossier therein) we have drafted for your kind perusal, to this very end:*

Ahimsa Before Arms: an Open Letter and Dossier to the Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen of India [VIEW HERE](#)

In a nutshell, we humbly ask for the following:

- That this covering letter and the attached dossier be received and read by the Chiefs of Service and Directors General to whom it is addressed, and by the Supreme Commander to whom a copy is forwarded.
- That it be disseminated, in whatever manner each service's commanding officers judge appropriate, to personnel at all ranks — because the documented evidence concerns their welfare, dignity, and institutional treatment, and they have the right to know it.
- That it be treated not as a challenge to military discipline or national security but as the legitimate exercise of Article 19(1)(a) — a right the soldier's own oath is ultimately taken to protect.
- That it be answered, if possible, in writing on the documented points: the suppression of General Naravane's memoir; the eleven pre-Pulwama intelligence warnings and the denied CRPF airlift; the 30 September 2016 disability-pension notification and the 2026 "tax on valour"; AFGIS and AGIF exposure to DHFL; Agnipath's implementation without adequate institutional consultation; the CAPF (General Administration) Act, 2026, and the Supreme Court judgment it was written to override; the six names inscribed on the National War Memorial after a parliamentary

denial of Operation Sindoor deaths; and the unanswered cartographic questions addressed to the National Security Adviser.

We do not expect every reader to accept every conclusion. We do expect every reader to recognise that the evidence is drawn from parliamentary records, CAG audits, RTI papers, judicial proceedings, the National War Memorial Roll of Honour, the testimony of a former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, leaked but widely reported excerpts of a former Army Chief's unpublished memoir, and the government's own budget documents. No institutional reply can dismiss that record without engaging its substance.

We release this document in open solidarity with the men and women who have already walked the path of peaceful, constitutional protest — and with those who will again take their place at Jantar Mantar.

In August 2026, the Alliance of All Ex-Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association announced a hunger strike at Jantar Mantar [beginning 12 November 2026](#) (with related notices to the PMO and the Ministry of Home Affairs), demanding withdrawal of the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026, and restoration of the Old Pension Scheme. Earlier in the same year, retired Army personnel gathered at the same site over the failures of the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme, the tax on disability pensions, and the Agnipath model. We do not claim their seats. We do not speak in their name. We stand with them as citizens who recognise that the demands they carry — dignity of service, honest pension, cadre fairness, an end to the conversion of the uniformed body into temporary labour — are the same demands this letter documents. Their presence at Jantar Mantar is not a threat to the Republic. It is the Republic's unfinished business made visible. As this dossier enters circulation, we place it beside their banners, their notices, and their quiet, non-violent resolve.

In ahimsa, in grief, and in enduring hope —

Dr. Debaprasad Bandyopadhyay

Mrs. Rupa Sanyal Bandyopadhyay

Mr. Akhar Bandyopadhyay

The Founder-Members of **ONCE IN A BLUE MOON ACADEMIA (OBMA)**↴

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